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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, November 23 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended November 17 totaled an estimated 17.6 billion ton-miles, 2.7 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 46 weeks of 1979 was an estimated 798 billion ton-miles, 5.1 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended November 17 totaled 464,592 cars, 6.2 percent below 1978, and 3.2 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 16.4 percent in the East, 1.8 percent in the South, and 0.5 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1978, 17 of the 21 comodity groups were down. Of the four remaining, grain registered the largest increase, up 4,437 cars or 16.0 percent. Coal loadings totaled 107,829, down 3.7 percent from 1978. Eighteen of the 21 groups were down from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended November 10 totaled 36,746 cars, down 2.5 percent from the corresponding week of 1978, and 63,918 trailers and/or containers, 2.3 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 45 weeks of the year was 1,624,207, 1.7 percent higher than last year, and 2,867,268 trailers and/or containers, up 3.9 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 11/17.[1]

	Loadings in Week ended November 17, 1979	Change from Corresponding Week 1978		Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars	Cars	Percent	Cars	Percent
Grain	32,093	I 4,437	16.0	D 1,318	3.9
Other farm products	6,442	D 572	8.2	D 39	0.6
Metallic ores	30,673	D 2,845	8.5	D 816	2.6
Coal	107,829	D 4,194	3.7	D 6,035	5.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	16,734	D 3,324	16.6	D 635	3.7
Nonmetallic minerals	14,806	I 1,098	8.0	D 1,009	6.4
Grain mill products	18,692	D 1,097	5.5	D 363	1.9
Food and kindred products	18,657	D 929	4.7	D 212	1.1
Primary forest products	21,013	D 1,183	5.3	D 372	1.7
Lumber and wood products except furniture	10,518	D 1,788	14.5	D 11	0.1
Pulp, paper and allied products	21,478	I 337	1.6	I 380	1.8
Chemicals and allied products	27,768	I 210	0.8	D 721	2.5
Petroleum products	5,708	D 1,037	15.4	D 345	5.7
Stone, clay and glass products	17,556	D 1,676	8.7	D 422	2.3
Coke	5,978	D 1,354	18.5	D 36	0.6
Metals and products	17,179	D 2,917	14.5	D 432	2.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	19,965	D 7,832	28.2	D 1,792	8.2
Waste and scrap materials	13,877	D 675	4.6	D 77	0.6
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	12,504	D 808	6.1	I 22	0.2
All other carloads	44,734	D 4,440	9.0	D 967	2.1
LCL traffic	383	D 104	21.4	I 18	4.9
Total Cars Loaded	464,592	D 30,693	6.2	D 15,182	3.2
Corresponding week of 1978	495,285				

	1979	1978	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (46 weeks)	21,310,744	20,718,045	I 2.9
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
45 weeks cumulative	780.6	741.3	I 5.3
Week ended November 17	17.6	18.0	D 2.7
46 weeks cumulative	798.2	759.4	I 5.1

[1] The figures above include 12 railroads no longer considered Class I roads when the qualifying requirement for Class I companies was raised by the ICC from $10 million to $50 million in annual operating revenues as of January 1, 1978.

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